



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/615,502	07/08/2003	Charles Bradley Green	25040.0912	9230
29052	7590	07/21/2006	EXAMINER	
SUTHERLAND ASBILL & BRENNAN LLP			ALEXANDER, REGINALD	
999 PEACHTREE STREET, N.E.			ART UNIT	
ATLANTA, GA 30309			PAPER NUMBER	

1761

DATE MAILED: 07/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/615,502

Applicant(s)

GREEN, CHARLES BRADLEY

Examiner

Reginald L. Alexander

Art Unit

1761

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 June 2006.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14, 17-25 and 31-39 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 31-39 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 6, 9-14 and 17-25 is/are rejected.
7) ☒ Claim(s) 7 and 8 is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claims 17-19 are objected to because of the following informalities: The claims are no dependent upon a canceled claim. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 4-6, 9, 10, 12-14, 17-21 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DE 4445436 in view of Paoletti.

There is disclosed in the German reference a milk foaming device, comprising: a milk inlet system, including a disposable hose 14, for pressurizing milk from a milk source; an air inlet system, including a disposable hose 16; compressed air source (pump) and valve arrangement 119, 120, for pressurizing air from the air source; a steam inlet system, including a disposable hose 9; a mixing area 11 to mix the milk, air and steam; an expansion area 3; a hose connector (connected to the expansion area) for connecting the milk and air inlet systems, the connector including a three-way connection; and a diffuser 5, including an insert and spout, to gather the flow of foamed milk to be dispensed.

Paoletti discloses that it is known in the art to provide a mixture nozzle 5 with a hollow nozzle block 3, the nozzle having a plurality of protrusions 5C positioned

Art Unit: 1761

thereon, the protrusion forming, with an inner wall of the block, a plurality of channels (orifice areas)

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to provide within the mixing area of DE 4445436 a mixing nozzle arrangement as taught in Paoletti, in order to more thoroughly mix the air, steam and milk.

Claims 2, 3 and 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the prior art as applied to claims above, and further in view of Hourizadeh.

Hourizadeh discloses that it is known in the art to use a pump 140 to pressurize a supply milk to a foaming device and provide a sanitation system 50, 95 to provide hot water to the foaming device.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to provide the device of DE 445436 with the sanitation system taught in Hourizadeh, for the purpose of cleaning the foaming device.

In regards to the use of a peristaltic pump, it is the opinion of the examiner that the pump disclosed in Hourizadeh is a functional equivalent to that claimed, and would perform equally as well.

Claim 11 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the prior art as applied to claims 1, 5 and 10 above, and further in view of Detsch.

Detsch discloses that it is known in the art to use a microfilter in the path of an air hose providing compressed air.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to provide the device of DE 4445436 with the microfilter taught in Detsch, in order to clean the air being provided to the mixing area.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7 and 8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 13 June 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In so much as the mixture nozzle has been defined by applicant, the element 5 of Paoletti achieves a mixing function. The nozzle 5 is surrounded by a hollow block 3 and is provided with a plurality of protrusions 5C.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

Art Unit: 1761

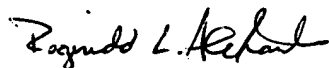
the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Reginald L. Alexander whose telephone number is 571-272-1395. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Milton Cano can be reached on 571-272-1398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

rla
09 July 2006


Reginald L. Alexander
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1761